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7 STARSUN FINCEL

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10

11 A.S., a minor, by and through his
Guardian Ad Litem, Kelani Lynch,

12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, a
California public entity; STARSUN
15 FINCEL, an individual; and DOES 1-
20, inclusive,

16 Defendants.

17

CASE NO: 5:25-cv-00085-JGB (SPx)

*Assigned for All Purposes to:
Honorable Jesus G. Bernal*

*Discovery Matter before
Magistrate Judge: Sheri Pym*

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

18

19 **1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

20 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
21 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure
22 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.

23 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the
24 following Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer
25 blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection
26 it affords from the public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information
27 or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal

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1 principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that
2 this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information
3 under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
4 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file
5 material under seal.

6 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

7 This action will likely involve confidential and sensitive information
8 regarding primarily a minor child, A.S., who is the subject of this lawsuit against the
9 Defendants. There are also other minor witnesses who were involved in the incident
10 giving rise to this lawsuit. Therefore, the nature of protecting the minors'
11 information and privacy is critical for which special protection from public
12 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than the litigation of this action is
13 warranted. Further, this action will also likely involve law enforcement sensitive
14 information, law enforcement personnel information, medical information, third
15 party contact information, and other information which special protection from
16 public disclosure and from use for any other purpose other than for prosecution of
17 this action is warranted.

18 The documents related to this matter include but are not limited to the
19 following: police reports regarding a minor, discovery related to juvenile court
20 records, sensitive pictures of minor children, medical records of minor children, law
21 enforcement investigation reports, law enforcement personnel records, and
22 documents which are otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be
23 privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes,
24 court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of
25 information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of
26 discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep
27 confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of
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1 such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling
2 at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such
3 information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information
4 will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so
5 designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential,
6 non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public
7 record of this case.

8 **2. DEFINITIONS**

9 2.1 Action: Refers to this pending federal lawsuit Case No. 5:25-cv-00085-
10 JGB-SPx.

11 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation
12 of information or items under this Order.

13 2.3 "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items: information (regardless of how
14 it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection
15 under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the
16 Good Cause Statement.

17 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their
18 support staff).

19 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
20 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
21 "CONFIDENTIAL".

22 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
23 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
24 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced
25 or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

26 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
27 pertinent to the Action who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an

1 expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

2 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
3 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
4 counsel.

5 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
6 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

7 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party
8 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have
9 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which
10 has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

11 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
12 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
13 support staffs).

14 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
15 Discovery Material in this Action.

16 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support
17 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
18 demonstratives, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
19 and their employees and subcontractors.

20 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
21 designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."

22 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
23 from a Producing Party.

24 3. **SCOPE**

25 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
26 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
27 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
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1 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
2 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

3 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
4 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

5 **4. DURATION**

6 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
7 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
8 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
9 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with
10 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
11 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
12 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of
13 time pursuant to applicable law.

14 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

15 **5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.**

16 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection
17 under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material
18 that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate
19 for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
20 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,
21 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
22 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

23 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
24 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
25 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to
26 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the
27 Designating Party to sanctions.

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1 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items
2 that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating
3 Party must promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable
4 designation.

5 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
6 Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated
7 or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this
8 Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

9 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

10 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents,
11 but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the
12 Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter
13 "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that contains protected material. If only a
14 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing
15 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
16 markings in the margins).

17 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
18 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
19 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before
20 the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed
21 "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the documents, it wants
22 copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or
23 portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the
24 specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the "CONFIDENTIAL legend"
25 to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the
26 material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
27 identify the protected portions) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

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1 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify the
2 Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all
3 protected testimony.

4 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any
5 other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior
6 of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
7 "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
8 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
9 portions).

10 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure
11 to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the
12 Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
13 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
14 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
15 Order.

16 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

17 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation
18 of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling Order.

19 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging party shall initiate the dispute resolution
20 process under Local Rule 37.1 et. seq.

21 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the
22 Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose
23 (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may
24 expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived
25 or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the
26 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing
27 Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

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1 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
3 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
4 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
5 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
6 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
7 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
8 DISPOSITION).

9 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
10 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
11 authorized under this Order.

12 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless
13 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
14 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
15 "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:

16 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
17 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
18 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

19 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel)
20 of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

21 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
22 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
23 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

24 (d) the court and its personnel;

25 (e) court reporters and their staff;

26 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
27 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who
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1 have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
2 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
3 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;
4 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
5 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
6 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they
7 will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign
8 the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
9 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
10 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may
11 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except
12 as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and
13 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
14 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

15 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**
16 **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

17 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
18 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
19 "CONFIDENTIAL," that Party must:

20 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall
21 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

22 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
23 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena
24 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy
25 of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

26 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
27 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

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If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL" before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party's permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

9. A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

(a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this Action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

(b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

(1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement With a Non- Party;

(2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

1 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a Protective Order from this court within 14
2 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may
3 produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request.
4 If the Non- Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not
5 produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
6 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
7 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense
8 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

9 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

10 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has
11 disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized
12 under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a)
13 notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best
14 efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the
15 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of
16 this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment
17 and Agreement to be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

18 **11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
19 PROTECTED MATERIAL**

20 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
21 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,
22 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil
23 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure
24 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior
25 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the
26 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or
27 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the
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1 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted
2 to the court.

3 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

4 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
5 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

6 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
7 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
8 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
9 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
10 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

11 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
12 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
13 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific
14 Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material under seal is
15 denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public
16 record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

17 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

18 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
19 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
20 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this
21 subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
22 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
23 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party
24 must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person
25 or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by
26 category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed
27 and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts,

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1 compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the
2 Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an
3 archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
4 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
5 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
6 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
7 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
8 Section 4 (DURATION).

9 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
10 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
11 sanctions.

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1 **IT IS SO STIPULATED THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**
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3 DATED: May 28, 2025

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5 **LYNBERG & WATKINS**
6 A Professional Corporation

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8 By: */s/ Edward J. Southcott*
9 **SHANNON L. GUSTAFSON**
10 **EDWARD J. SOUTHCOTT**
11 Attorneys for Defendants
12 COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO and
13 STARSUN FINCEL

14 DATED: May 28, 2025

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16 **POINTER & BUELNA, LLP**

17

18 By: */s/ Michael Slater*
19 **ADANTE POINTER**
20 **PATRICK BUELNA**
21 **MICHAEL SLATER**
22 Attorneys for Plaintiff, A.S., a minor by
23 and through his Guardian Ad Litem,
24 Kelani Lynch

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26 **FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

27 DATED: June 2, 2025

28 By:



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30 **HONORABLE SHERI PYM**
31 United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
[print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its
entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the
United States District Court for the Central District of California on _____ [date]
in the case of *A.S. a minor, by and through his Guardian Ad Litem, Kelani*
Lynch v. County of San Bernardino, et al., Case No: 5:25-cv-00085-JGB (Spx). I
agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective
Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me
to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I
will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this
Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with
the provisions of this Order. I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the
United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose
of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such
enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint
[print or type full name] of _____ [print
or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of
process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement
of this Stipulated Protective Order.

22

23 | Date:

24 | City and State where sworn and signed:

25 Printed name:

26 | Signature:

27

1 I certify that all parties to this document have consented to its filing and to the
2 language contained herein and have authorized the undersigned to affix their
3 electronic signatures.

4 DATED: May 28, 2025

LYNBERG & WATKINS
A Professional Corporation

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7 By: */s/ Edward J. Southcott*

SHANNON L. GUSTAFSON

EDWARD J. SOUTHCOtt

Attorneys for Defendants

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO and

STARSLUN FINCEL

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